

Congresswoman NAPOLITANO. I am grateful for her continued leadership and commitment on this issue and I look forward to further collaborating with her.

HONORING NEW ROCHELLE YMCA  
120TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize an institution that has helped children and families in my district for an astonishing 120 years, the New Rochelle YMCA.

On January 15, 1899 a group of New Rochelleans gathered at 56 Woodland Ave. in New Rochelle to discuss the possibility of creating a YMCA. On February 3, 1899 the New Rochelle YMCA received its article of incorporation.

The original home of the Y was located at 480–482 Main Street where a building committee was established to create a permanent home. Twenty-six years later the YMCA purchased the Hendricks property at the corner of Division St. and Burling Lane (now Memorial Highway) and began raising money to build a new site. Following the economic uncertainty of the stock market crash, the new building was completed in 1931.

A true charitable organization, the Y was involved with the soldiers at Fort Slocum during both world wars, providing them with room and board while on leave from their base, as well as providing room for the American Red Cross. Several local community organizations used the Y facility as meeting halls for their respective groups. Over the years the Y provided many programs for the New Rochelle community, with the pool being the most popular feature and by 1939 had a membership of over 2,200 people. Over the years, the Y developed a rich history in diversity.

In the 1980's they moved into its current home on 50 Weyman Avenue, a space it shared with the Boys and Girls Club.

The YMCA's presence in the community has continued to increase over the last ten years, as the focus of the Y shifted from a "swim and gym club" to a community based charitable organization, which offers affordable programs, in addition to providing financial aid for children and families in need. Currently the YMCA serves close to 5,000 members, with a great majority of seniors and children. The YMCA has developed a Universal Pre-K program in partnership with the New Rochelle school district.

The New Rochelle YMCA has served the community for 120 years. On the occasion of their anniversary, I'd like to congratulate and thank their entire team for all they have done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call

No. 185; YEA Roll Call No. 186; YEA Roll Call No. 187; and YEA Roll Call No. 188.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEXAS  
A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO

**HON. WILL HURD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 10th Anniversary of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Since its establishment in 2009, A&M-San Antonio has transformed into a bustling, centralized University that has awarded over 8,000 degrees on the Southside of San Antonio, so students are prepared to take on the challenges of the 21st Century.

Additionally, the University is reflective of the rich heritage of the community it serves, with a student body that's 60-percent female, 72-percent Hispanic and 77-percent first-generation college students. I am proud to represent a University that is playing a hands-on role in moving our country forward, and I know this is only the beginning.

On behalf of the Twenty-third Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Texas A&M University-San Antonio on this achievement and go jaguars.

HONORING THE ROANOKE  
TRIBUNE

**HON. BEN CLINE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 80th anniversary of the Roanoke Tribune newspaper in Roanoke, Virginia.

Founded by Reverend F.E. Alexander in 1939, the Roanoke Tribune has played an important role in the community of Roanoke, representing the African-American community as it fought racial discrimination in the Roanoke Valley in the 20th Century.

Their tradition of strong, independent journalism which holds leaders and the powerful accountable continues today under the leadership of Reverend Alexander's daughter, Claudia A. Whitworth, and his grandson, Stanley A. Hale.

Congratulations to the Roanoke Tribune on its 80 years, and here is wishing them many more.

SUPPORT OF THE LAWYERS DEFENDING  
DEMOCRACY "OPEN  
LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
CONGRESS"

**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, while the nation has been focused on Russian interference with the 2016 presidential election and questions of presidential obstruction of justice, President Donald Trump's violation of funda-

mental principles and norms of American democracy have been far more comprehensive. In the last three months, more than 400 attorneys—including former federal and state judges, United States Attorneys, managing partners of large law firms, law deans and other distinguished lawyers from around the country—have stepped forward in a broad and unprecedented effort to defend American democracy and the rule of law against official lawlessness.

The lawyers have signed and published an "Open Letter to The President and Congress" identifying five fundamental norms and principles of our democracy which they believe the President has violated. These violations involve the President's unjustified attacks on the mainstream media, courts, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, his repeated lying to the public, and failure to respect civil discourse and peoples from all backgrounds. The Letter's Appendix cites examples of violations of each principle.

The Letter emphasizes that it is "NOT about disagreements over Republican or Democratic policies, liberal or conservative ideology, or political party advantage. The values and principles threatened here are much deeper, and are much more important, than politics, policy differences and any politician's self-interest. They're the bedrock of our American, constitutional, democratic form of government for all times."

The Letter notes that: "[u]nless challenged and checked, the pattern of disregard weakens the norms that underpin American self-government and invites unfettered Executive power—transforming the United States from a democracy to an autocracy. As members of the legal profession, pledged to support the rule of law and the constitutional separation of powers, we must not allow this to happen." I am pleased to endorse this Letter and Appendix by Lawyers Defending American Democracy, [www.lawyersdefendingdemocracy.org](http://www.lawyersdefendingdemocracy.org), and include them in the RECORD.

We are fortunate that, at a time of rising authoritarianism around the world, lawyers in the United States are standing strong for the rule of law and the Constitution.

OPEN LETTER OF LAWYERS DEFENDING  
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

We live at a time when America's fundamental values are under attack. As American lawyers, we're deeply concerned about protecting the democratic institutions and principles that have enabled America to be the world's preeminent beacon of freedom and opportunity.

As lawyers, we have the responsibility to defend the underlying constitutional values and norms of political behavior on which our democracy depends. These core values and principles include: the rule of law; institutional checks and balances; separation of powers; press freedom; truthfulness to the public; and the integrity of our system of justice.

Accordingly, we, as lawyers, cannot ignore or remain silent about President Donald Trump's disregard of these core values and principles. We must speak out.

Yet, we recognize that elections have consequences. This effort to energize and mobilize our legal profession is emphatically NOT about disagreements over Republican or Democratic policies, liberal or conservative ideology, or political party advantage. The values and principles threatened here go much deeper, and are much more important than politics, policy differences and any politician's self-interest. They're the bedrock of

our American, constitutional, democratic form of government.

Specifically, we call on the President to respect and honor the following fundamental principles and norms of American democracy:

Independence, integrity and the critical role of mainstream media: An independent and watchful mainstream media is, and always has been, an essential component of American democracy.

Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of the judiciary: The independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of our judiciary is, and from the founding of our Nation has been, a central pillar of our democratic system.

Truthfulness of public officials: Our democracy is built on trust and telling the people the truth about public matters; the maintenance of that trust and Americans' ability to make informed and rational public decisions require our leaders to provide honest, factual information to us all.

Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of federal criminal justice and intelligence agencies, including Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI: Nonpartisan independence, integrity and competence are critical to the fairness of our federal criminal justice system and intelligence agencies.

Civil discourse and fair treatment, including the respect for rights and the dignity of all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation: Civil discourse and fair treatment, including respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals, is an essential ingredient of American democracy.

The President's attacks on these core American democratic principles undermine the foundations of our Constitution and threaten the rule of law. Unless challenged and checked, this pattern of disregard weakens the norms that underpin American self-government and invites unfettered Executive power—transforming the United States from a democracy to an autocracy. As members of the legal profession, pledged to support the rule of law and the constitutional separation of powers, we must not allow this to happen.

Fortunately, a group of prominent conservative lawyers has recently spoken out on many of these same issues through a new organization, "Checks and Balances." Now, other members of the bar must no longer remain silent.

We call on the leaders of America's bar associations, law schools, law firms and fellow lawyers nationwide to speak out, on a non-partisan basis, against these attacks on the core of our democratic constitutional form of government. As lawyers, we have a responsibility to uphold "the rule of law" and prevent "the law of rulers." Wherever you live and work—in cities, towns, rural areas, suburbs—American democracy needs to hear your voice.

#### APPENDIX

We list below the five fundamental principles and values of American democracy highlighted in our Open Letter to the President. Under each principle, we describe patterns or examples of behavior by the President that we believe constitute serious violations of these principles. The examples are not intended to be comprehensive and may be added to in the future.

Principle: Independence, integrity and the critical role of mainstream media.

Pattern of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has labeled the mainstream news media that have earned our trust through decades of relentless, factual reporting as the "enemy of the American people!" and has repeatedly criticized reporting he dislikes as "Fake News."

Principle: Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of judiciary.

Pattern of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has criticized "our Court System" as "broken and unfair" and has pilloried the judges and decisions of an entire Federal Circuit as "[a] terrible, costly and dangerous disgrace." He has publicly labeled a federal judge with whose decision he disagreed a "so-called judge". And he sought to undermine the public's confidence in the integrity of another federal judge—who had ruled that the President's immigration policy violated express statutory language—by calling him "an Obama judge."

Principle: Civil discourse and fair treatment, including respect for rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Examples of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has said that there were "some very fine people on both sides" of the murderous Charlottesville white nationalists' demonstrations. He's approved the removal of thousands of children from their immigrant parents, for extended time periods, and has publicly insulted several respected African-American female journalists.

Principle: Independence, integrity, competence and nonpartisanship of federal criminal justice and intelligence agencies, including Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI.

Examples of Violations: Nevertheless, the President has attacked the DOJ for indicting Republican Congressmen for serious financial crimes because the indictments would harm the chances for reelecting Republicans. He has attacked and removed former Attorney General Jeff Sessions for lack of personal loyalty, after having previously complained that: "I don't have an Attorney General."

He has accused the special counsel's deliberate, professional, lawful investigation of Russian interference with the 2016 election as the "rigged Mueller Witch Hunt!" And, he has rejected the U.S. intelligence community's consensus finding of Russian interference in that election, because Vladimir Putin, the autocratic Russian President, told the President that there was no interference.

Principle: Truthfulness of public officials.

Examples of Violations: [ . . . ] The Washington Post has documented more than 7,500 "false or misleading claims" by the President.

#### COMMENDING THE JUNIOR YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AT MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. BRIAN J. MAST**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great program that is promoting civic engagement in Florida and across the country. The YMCA's Junior Youth In Government Program is a model legislative forum where students learn to write bills, as well as develop critical debate and leadership skills. In Florida, these bills amend existing laws or create new legislation to better serve Floridians.

In Martin County, the Junior Youth In Government Program started at Murray Middle School, and now all middle schools in Martin County have successful programs. I want to especially recognize David Yankwitt. In addition to teaching American History and Civics

at Murray Middle School, he works as the coordinator for the Junior Youth In Government Program for Martin County. His work is inspiring a new generation of leaders to engage with our state in a civic-minded way.

I also want to recognize the 15 students who participated in this program at Murray Middle School and the 35 students who participated county-wide. As students continue in Junior Youth In Government, they can then move into Senior Youth In Government. South Fork, Martin County and Jensen Beach High Schools all have great student-led programs that could result in students receiving college credit and scholarships.

Madam Speaker, I hope these programs will continue to expand and give even more students the opportunity to learn more about how citizens can participate in our government.

#### CONGRATULATING JIM GRIFFIN ON HIS SUCCESS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HEB ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate City of Bedford Mayor Jim Griffin on his success as Chairman of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District Education Foundation's Board of Directors.

Through the guidance of its board of directors, the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District (HEB ISD) Education Foundation raises and awards private funds and community resources in support of the HEB ISD's commitment to serving its students and to educational excellence. Since its establishment in 1995, the Foundation has raised and awarded over \$855,000 in the form of grants to educators and programs within the HEB ISD.

In 2016, Jim Griffin assumed the role of Chairman of the Board of Directors, leading the foundation into a new period of success and prosperity. Acting on his passions for education and service to his community, Mayor Griffin has worked rigorously and spent countless hours on school campuses, building essential relationships with educators throughout the area. Furthermore, his efforts to secure critical funding have enabled the Foundation to effectively meet the needs of a growing student population.

Mayor Griffin's tremendous impact is apparent in the extensive and continuous outreach that he conducts on behalf of the Foundation. Throughout his time as Chairman, he has maintained the highest level of corporate and community support for the Superintendent's annual Circle of Giving Campaign. He has also expanded the Campus Liaison Program to include multiple visits to all HEB ISD campuses each year. Additionally, Mayor Griffin's work to rebrand the HEB ISD staff campaign "ARE YOU IN? Inspire, Innovate, Invest", has resulted in over 100 percent growth of both donors and donations in 2018-2019. With over 770 staff donors and \$36,000 raised this past year, every dollar from this campaign is given directly to classrooms and campuses